(d) whether representations have been received from Meteorological employees of N.E. Region demanding establishment of Regional Office at Guwahati; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PESRONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The Meteorological Centre (M.C.) of the India metorological department is located at Guwahati in Assam and it caters to the meteorological needs in the states of north-eastern region.

(b) There are 5 Regional Meteorological Centres (RMC) of the India Meteorological Department located at Calcutta, Nagpur, Delhi, Bombay and Madras. These have overall responsibility for catering to the meterological requirements in the States in the eastern, central, northern, western and southern parts of the country.

(c) to (e) Establishment of a Regional Meteorological Centre separately for the North-Eastern States is included in the Draft Eighth Five Year Plan programme of the India Meteorological Department. However, actual establishment will depend on the availability of resources under the 8th Five Year Plan (1992-1997).

Eco-Health survey ITRC

2230. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ITRC scientists are taking up first-ever poineering eco-health survey project in the country (Times of India, 26th November, 1991) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are aware that results of many similar surveys hitherto conducted by ITRC have not been made public specially in respect of pesticides, metals, food, water etc.; and

(c) if so, whether Government would ensure better utilisation of ITRC, NEERI etc. in close association with NGOs involved in the problems of eco-health such as South-South Solidarity, New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir. A multi-model study, as part of eco-health survey project in the country, had been undertaken from 18th November to 29th November, 1991 in Delhi. The study included collection of drinking water samples for physio-chemical, heavy metal and bacterial parameters like faecal coliform and total coliform. Air quality monitoring from six sampling points within a radius of 10 Kms. around Connaught Place was also undertaken. Food items, vegetables, edible oils, ghee and milk samples were also taken for analysis for pesticide residues, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons and aflatoxins and for permitted food colours and detection of adulterants. The study was further coupled with both retrospective and prospective health examinations and lung-function testing of a cross-section of the population of Delhi.

(b) The majority of the health surveys undertaken by ITRC, in the past had been in the form of projects sponsored by various government departments including the Ministry of Health. Not only have the results of these studies been sent to concerned authorities for further action, but many of them have also been published in national and international journals. This is also the case with regard to the studies undertaken in respect of pesticides and metals. In cases of studies undertaken by ITRC on its own, the detailed results of such studies are passed on to concerned parties.

(c) The institutes ensure better ultilization of their activities through wide publicity of the results of the studies by means of annual reports, audio-visual films, regular awareness programmes and visits from representatives of the Governments as well as Non-Governmental Organisations.